

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found in claim 7 as previously presented. No new matter would be added to this application by entry of this amendment.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-6 and 8-12 will now be active in this application.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

The claimed invention is directed to a fixed-bed multitubular reactor.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Seifu for indicating that claim 7 was allowable as the cited art failed to disclose or suggest a plurality of heat medium bath temperature measurers being provided at the same height as the measurement positions of the catalyst temperature measures. Applicants have now rewritten claim 1 to include all of the limitation of allowable claim 7. Applicants note that claim 1 has been further amended to more clearly provide for a heat-medium bath and heat-medium bath temperature measures. Accordingly, claims 1-3 and 8-12 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Further claim 4 has been amended to recite a method of conducting gas-phase catalytic oxidation in the reactor of claim 1. As claim 1 is allowable, methods using such a reactor are also allowable (M.P.E.P. §§ 2116.01). Further such amendment obviates the examiner's objection to claims 5 and 6 as such specific reactions are further limiting of claims directed to a method of conducting gas-phase catalytic oxidation.

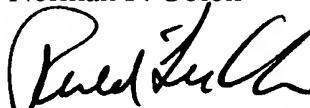
Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of original claim 1, and claims dependent therefrom, in one or more continuation applications.

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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